

Applicant: James Mantyla
Application Serial No.: 10/067,606
Filing Date: February 5, 2002
Docket No.: 669-78
Page 2

Amendments to the Specification: ✓

Please insert the following new paragraph after paragraph [0034]:

A1

[0034.1] Fig. 5 is a side view of a further embodiment of the present invention.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

A2

[0045] It can now be appreciated that by reason of the part spherical surface **30** it is possible to form a liquid tight seal even ~~tough~~ though the respective elements **12** and **18** may be out of angular alignment. All that is required is for the part spherical surface to extend over a sufficient vertical radial arc to permit the seal to be lower at one point and higher at another point while still forming a good seal fully around the circumference of the tubing elements. Thus, because of the part spherical surface, the seal will be formed tight and continuous even though variations in angle may be present between the two components. Further, the seal so formed will not impose any stresses onto the plumbing connections by reason of any forced alignment as occurs with the prior art devices. Thus, once the seal of the present invention is formed, it will tend to keep its integrity over time and there is also likely to be less collateral damage to other parts of the installed plumbing system.

Applicant: James Mantyla
Application Serial No.: 10/067,606
Filing Date: February 5, 2002
Docket No.: 669-78
Page 3

Please replace paragraph [0049] with the following amended paragraph:

A3
[0049] While reference has been made to a particular form of sealing element, it will be understood that the present invention comprehends other forms of sealing element. For example in Fig. 5, an O-ring 105 110 type of sealing element is shown. In this embodiment a groove 110 112 is formed into the female portion. That the O-ring could be equally mounted into the part spherical surface is also comprehended by the present invention. As will be understood, the shape of the seal and the type of seal are less important than the location of the seal. The angular possibilities of connection of the present invention are achieved by sealing against a rounded or part spherical surface. Angular variations in the connection between the elements therefore do not affect the ability to form a seal, unlike in the prior art.